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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Ousted U. S. 'Tourists' Aided CIA

By Drew Pearson

It isn't pleasant to admit that the Russians are telling the truth, but they are in the case of Harvey Bennett and Mark Kamin.

Both men, though posing as tourists, actually were working for the Central Intelligence Agency, and now that they are safely outside Russia and the Russians know the facts, the American people should know them, too.

Both men speak Russian and Bennett was an expert radio operator. Both had been in the Air Force, though they are not, as described in news dispatches, air force buddies. They never served together in the same place. Bennett had been working in Oakland, Calif., with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Kamin had been a Russian instructor at Ann Arbor, Mich.

They had agreed to lend their eyes and ears to Central Intelligence on a tour of Russia by automobile which began July 27.

When the CIA injects its operations into the tourist and

people-to-people program it puts other legitimate tourists under suspicion and jeopardizes one of the few successful programs for peace.

Political Do-It-Yourself

You may have noticed that Republican candidates for Congress all over the United States the other day began calling Sen. Jack Kennedy "a political chameleon who has changed his colors so often few people remember which hue he was originally."

The interesting aspect of this charge was that every Republican candidate from Maine to the Mexican border used exactly the same language.

Here is the reason why. In Washington the Republican National Committee is grinding out canned speeches and press releases with the most amazing efficiency and the most amazing sameness ever seen in a political campaign. Here, for instance, is the press release which inspired the same identical attacks on Kennedy from Alaska to Florida. All the local candidates had to do was fill in the blanks:

"(Candidate's name), Republican candidate for Congress from the (number) district of state, today attacked Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy as 'a political chameleon who has changed his colors so often few people

remember which hue he was originally.'

"(Candidate) told a meeting of the (name of group) at (place) that Senator Kennedy 'talks one way in the East, another in the West, one way in the North, and another way in the South.'"

Another canned release for candidates who don't think for themselves read as follows:

"Sen. John F. Kennedy's attacks on high interest rates are but a 'cover up for the far more insidious evil of inflation,' (candidate's name) charged today."

GOP Chiefs Lay Eggs

The two leaders of the right and left wings of the Republican party, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, whom Vice President Nixon had to pacify in Chicago, have been trying hard to help him get elected. But they aren't making much headway.

Goldwater has been stumping the South, but the South is turning more and more toward Kennedy.

Rockefeller has been stumping in his own state of New York, but the crowds are meager, the enthusiasm minus, and whatever popularity the Governor has left isn't wearing off on Nixon. New York state looks more and more pro-Kennedy.

The difficulty is that people are smart. They know that

when a man says that U. S. prestige is slipping and national defense is in jeopardy, then he can't reverse himself and believe just the opposite overnight.

Actually Rockefeller hasn't reversed quite everything. He has rejected Nixon's campaign claim that American prestige is at an all-time high.

The reason Rockefeller publicly refused to agree with Nixon on this point was the Rockefeller Brothers' Report in 1957 which stated:

"It appears that the United States is rapidly losing its lead over the U. S. S. R. in the military race. For perhaps the next two years we still possess a superiority in strategic striking power. But our position a year or two hence depends upon positions which must be taken immediately. Unless present trends are reversed, the world balance of power will shift in favor of the Soviet bloc. If that should happen we are not likely to be given another chance to remedy our failings."

Three years have now passed, and Rockefeller made it quite clear when he publicly rebuked Nixon and the Eisenhower Administration last spring that he did not think these decisions had been taken immediately or "the present trends reversed."

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